

H. R. 2993.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 7, 1871.

Read twice, referred to the Committee of Claims, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BARRY, on leave, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of claims of loyal citizens of the State of Mississippi for quartermasters' supplies taken and used by the Army of the United States during the late rebellion.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That there shall be appointed by the President of the United
4 States a suitable and fit person, to be known as the commis-
5 sioner of claims, in the State of Mississippi, who shall take
6 the same oath of office required by law of other officers
7 of the United States.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That said
2 commissioner, when appointed and qualified, shall pro-
3 ceed to receive and take proof upon all claims of loyal
4 persons to the United States for quartermasters' supplies

5 which may have been taken from such person and used by
6 the Army of the United States during the late rebellion, and
7 shall file said claim, with the proofs taken thereon, in the
8 office of the Quartermaster General of the United States, to
9 remain subject to such further proceedings thereon as may
10 hereafter be provided by law.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the loyalty of
2 such claimant to the United States before, at the time, and
3 since such supplies were taken, shall be established by the
4 oath of such claimant and of two credible witnesses, and
5 the articles taken and value thereof shall also be established
6 by the oath of such claimant and two credible witnesses,
7 with such other testimony as may be in the possession of such
8 claimant: *Provided,* That any voucher or other statement
9 given in writing by the officer taking the same shall be con-
10 clusive as to the articles taken and the value thereof, upon
11 the proof required herein of the loyalty of the claimant.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the
2 duty of said commissioner to propound such questions to such
3 claimants and their witnesses as may be necessary to obtain
4 the full truth in relation to the loyalty of such claimant, and
5 of the articles taken, with the value thereof; and when he
6 shall not be satisfied in relation thereto from the proof pro-
7 duced by the claimant, and he shall have reason to believe
8 there are other witnesses who can testify as to the truth

9 thereof, he shall summon before him, and take the examina-
10 tion of such witnesses in writing, and file the same with the
11 other proof accompanying such claim: *Provided*, That such
12 claimant shall have reasonable notice of the time and place
13 of such examination, and shall have opportunity, by himself
14 or attorney, to cross-examine such witnesses.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That said commis-
2 sioner shall, for his services herein, receive as compensation
3 therefor the sum of five dollars for each claim, with the addi-
4 tional fee allowed by law to commissioners of the circuit
5 courts of the United States for taking depositions, to be paid
6 by the claimant when the services are rendered.